

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the discussion below.

Applicants invention has been discussed in the Amendment filed November 7, 2003 which is incorporated herein by reference with the following additional comments addressed to the new rejection of claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the reference to Weis et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,621,895 as detailed at items 4 through 8 of the Patent Office Action.

As indicated in the previous Response, what distinguishes the present invention, as defined by claims 5 and 9, from the prior art is that the transmission of information signals includes the starting the transmission so that the information signals are independent of any of the nodes in the start time is only a function of the particular hierarchical transmission sequence. As specifically discussed in the specification at page 9 lines 3-7. "The start time of a SIGNAL than no longer depends on the different signal transit times in the system (from optical and in a given case electrically transmission segments from and to the start coupler) but rather on the identifier of the signal to be transmitted and the allocation of the data bus by a (more important) telegram with lower identifier".

According to the statement of the rejection, the newly applied reference to Weis et al. '895 has a start time which is solely a function of the transmission sequence based on column 8, lines 44 to 50 of Weis et al. Applicants respectfully submit that column 8, lines 44 to 50 of Weis et al. indicates that a data frame

arrives at the fourth, fifth and sixth station 40-60 at time which are respectfully related by $T_0 + v_0 + v_{40} \dots T_0 \dots v_0 \dots v_{50} \dots v_{60}$. As explained at column 8, lines 12-14 the variable $v_{40} + v_{50}$ and v_{06} denote the propagation delays from the fourth, fifth and sixth station 40, 50 and 60 to the secondary star coupler to. Therefore, Applicants submit that this portion of the Weis et al. patent only shows that the arrival of the data frame, as discussed in column 8, lines 44 to 50 is a direct function of the propagation delays between the station (node) and the star coupler. Therefore, it is submitted that the '895 reference does not have any indication that a start time is "solely a function" of the hierarchical transmission sequence. As a further indication, column 7, lines 58 to 60 of Weis et al. specifically indicates, as an example, that the second station must transmit its data information at the time $T_0 - v_{20} + e$ where v_{20} is the propagation delay between the second station and the central star coupling and e is the relative position of the fifth segment in the data frame. Thus this start time is a function of v_{20} which is a propagation delay and therefore is a indication that the start time is a function of something other than the hierarchical transmission sequence whereas the present invention requires that the start time is solely a function of such transmission sequence.

The system of independent claim 9 similar to claim 5 also recites the above distinguishing features with regard to providing start time points whereby the start time points are independent of any one node and only a function of the hierarchical transmission sequence.

Dependent claims 6-8 and 10-12 depend from and contain all of the limitations of either independent claims 5 or 9 and are thus also submitted as being allowable.


Therefore in view of the distinguishing features which exist in each of independent claims 5 and 9 and which features are not available according to the disclosure of Weis et al. U.S. Patent 5,621,895, Applicants respectfully request that claims 5-12 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.49160US).

Respectfully submitted,

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